

RULES AND ORDERS,

TO BE

OBSERVED AND MAINTAINED

BY THE

Masons' Society,

NOW HELD

At the House of Mrs. Marshall,

SIGN OF THE

BALL, CAMPO LANE,

SHEFFIELD.

INSTITUTED THE 21st DAY OF APRIL, 1767.



SHEFFIELD;

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INTRODUCTION.



MAN is formed a social being ; the Sovereign Ruler of the world has been pleased to place us in this life as dependants on each other ; and in continual need of assistance and support, and has interwoven in our constitutions, those humane and sympathetic affections which we always feel at the distress of our fellow creatures. How greatly is a beneficent and generous spirit rewarded in contributing to relieve that distress.—Of all the delights which human nature is capable of enjoying, the most lively and transporting, are those which flow from sympathy, and social passion ; as they are not only the most pleasing in their immediate exercise, but also in contemplation and reflection.

Every benevolent mind, who sincerely delights in the good of others, will not fail to improve every opportunity to promote the happiness and comfort of those in particular who are afflicted with sickness, lameness, blindness, or any such calamity, by which they are deprived of the means and power of supporting not only themselves, but perhaps a numerous family.

That this is the true and laudable intention of this Society, the following Articles will sufficiently explain.

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Rules and Orders.

IMPRIMIS.

THAT this society shall be governed by one president, who shall be treasurer; also two trustees, and twelve assistants; and that the said president, trustees and assistants shall provide a strong box or chest, with three locks and keys, where the books, cash, and other things belonging to the society shall be deposited; the president and trustees shall each of them have a key, and no money shall be taken from the box, but when some of the assistants are present, two at the least.

II. That the president shall continue in office one year only, the elder trustee to succeed the president; the younger trustee to succeed the elder; a new trustee to be chosen by the members out of the assistants, three of whom shall be nominated by the president and trustees for that purpose: the president and trustees to choose the assistants out of the whole body.

III. If the president or trustees shall refuse to keep his or their key, or serve their office to the end of the time limited, after being legally chosen according to the rules of this society, he or they, for such refusal, shall forfeit five shillings each to the stock: and if any of the assistants shall refuse to serve, being chosen as above prescribed, he shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence to the stock: the forfeits for each to be paid on or before the third meeting night after; the person or persons refusing so to do, shall be excluded from this society.

IV. Every person that is admitted into this society, except members' sons, shall pay five shillings entrance, more or less, as may hereafter be agreed upon; three-pence of which shall go to the clerk, three-pence to the beadle, two-pence shall be spent, and the remainder go to the box: but a member's son, born in wedlock, or the husband of a member's daughter, she be-

ing born in wedlock, shall pay for admittance, one shilling and fourpence, two-pence of which shall go to the clerk, two-pence to the beadle, two-pence shall be spent, and the remainder go to the box ; but it must be observed, that no person shall be admitted a member till he hath made a personal appearance ; and if any member's son, or son-in-law, who hath received the privilege before mentioned, shall afterwards exclude himself, he shall not enter again upon the same terms as before, but shall pay the same as a stranger.

—N. B. Any person who dies a member of this society, his children shall be entitled to the privilege of this article, the same as if the father was still living.

V. Every member of this society shall pay one shilling and per month ; two-pence of which shall be spent, and the remainder go to the box ; and if any member shall neglect to bring or send his contribution money every monthly meeting night by nine o'clock, he shall for such neglect, forfeit two-pence to the stock ; and if he shall neglect to pay his contribution money the second meeting night, he shall forfeit two-pence more ; but if he shall neglect to pay of all that is due on the third meeting night by nine o'clock, he shall forfeit two-pence more, and shall have five days allowed to pay the same to the president, who shall cause notice to be given to such member by the beadle, for which such member shall pay the beadle two-pence ; but if not paid in five days after the meeting night, by nine o'clock in the evening, he shall be excluded : and the president shall inform the beadle whether he hath received the money, according to this article, the first time the beadle comes for orders, which must be twice in every week : any president violating this article, it being fairly proved against him, shall forfeit five shillings :—All forfeits must be paid on or before the third meeting night following, or he or they so neglecting, shall be excluded. The contribution to be altered as the society shall think proper.—

N. B. Any member sending his contribution by his wife, child, or apprentice, shall be allowed his liquor the same as if present himself : and any stranger regu-

larly paying for a member who resides in the country, shall be entitled to his liquor.

VI. If sickness or lameness come upon any member of this society after he has been in it one whole year, he shall receive ten shillings per week, during twelve weeks, if so long incapable of working; and if he continue sick or lame beyond the said term, then he shall receive five shillings per week the whole time of his illness; but if any member hath had one or more weeks' pay, and continue well for twelve months, and then receive pay again, the money he hath received before shall not be part of the twelve weeks' pay, but if he fall sick or lame within twelve months, the money he hath in that time received shall be added to the twelve week's pay.

VII. If any member die when he hath been in this society one whole year, on notice being given to the president, he shall pay the widow, or whom he may appoint, one pound, and if two years, three pounds, and if three years, six pounds, and if four years, eight pounds; the money to be paid on notice of his death. And if any member's wife die, when he hath been in this society two years, he shall receive two pounds; but not for more than one wife: and if any member dies after he hath received as aforesaid for his wife, before he hath been in three years, he shall receive one pound; but if he hath been in it three years, he shall receive four pounds; and if he hath been in it four years, shall receive six pounds.

VIII That the president shall on every meeting night, publish in writing, a list of the members who have received pay, during the month, and also of those who remain on pay, or for such neglect, shall forfeit six-pence to the stock.

IX. If any member, by his vicious course of life, bring any illness upon himself, he shall not receive any benefit from the box, nor shall any member receive any benefit from the box, until he hath been a week incapable of working.

X. That whatever the president, trustees, and assistants may consult or do among themselves, it being for the good of the society; or where any private character may be injured; or for the saving of expences to the

society, they may not declare it to the whole society ; but if they cannot unanimously agree amongst themselves to determine the matter, it shall be left to the society ; but if it should appear to the society that the matter should have been determined by the president, trustees, and assistants, the person or persons so bringing it to the society, shall be dealt with as the major part of the society shall think proper.

XI. No person having any bodily infirmity upon him shall become a member of this society : and if any member hath any infirmity upon him at the time of his admittance ; and it be afterwards proved, he shall be excluded immediately ; nor shall any person be admitted into this society that is under eighteen, or above twenty five years of age, or that lives above two miles distant from Sheffield ; nor in any other sick society : and if any member of this society should think it more convenient to reside in any other part of Great Britain, he shall be permitted so to do, provided he pays his contribution, &c. as aforesaid, and in case he fall sick or lame, so that he be rendered incapable of working, he by sending a certificate of his distemper, addressed to the president of the society, and signed by the surgeon, minister and churchwardens where he then resides, with proper directions where and how to send his pay, shall have it remitted to him the same as any other member, the pay only to commence from the date of the letter so signed, and the certificate signed by the surgeon, minister and churchwardens, to be renewed once every month, and also a letter on the members receiving the money, with a proper receipt ; otherwise the allowance shall be withdrawn, and no notice to be taken of any certificate hereafter till the receipt is received, and likewise a letter upon his recovery, signed as above, mentioning how many weeks his illness continued.—
N. B. The same in all respects is to be understood, if any member should be from home, or on a journey.

XII. That if any charge of fraud or imposition be brought against any member not residing in Sheffield, at the time of such member's receiving the weekly allowance, his pay shall be withdrawn till he hath cleared himself from the imputation, by making affidavit

before a magistrate, and sending it to the society for inspection.

XIII. That if any member be sick, and shall be ordered by a physician to go into the country for the recovery of his health, he shall, acquainting the president therewith, be permitted so to do, and shall be entitled to the pay, the same as if he had been in Sheffield, but if any person should go into the country without acquainting the president therewith, he shall forfeit his claim to pay, and be liable to give notice again, agreeable to the meaning of the 11th or 17th article.

XIV. The president and trustees shall be at the club room precisely at seven o'clock in the evening, on the first Monday in every month; that being the general meeting, with their respective keys, to receive the contribution money, or if they shall neglect to come, or send their keys by the time appointed, they shall forfeit sixpence each; but if they, by any business, cannot attend, but send their keys, shall forfeit only two-pence; also the assistants to be there by seven o'clock, or forfeit two-pence each: these forfeits to be paid on or before the accounts are made, or for such neglect shall be excluded.

XV. If any member of this society behave indecent during the hours of meeting, or offers to lay any wagers thereby disturbing the society in their business; or if any person continues to talk after the president hath demanded silence, or shall swear while the business of the society is transacting, he or they, for every such offence, shall forfeit four-pence to the stock.

XVI. If any member of this society shall cast a reflection on his brother member, for any thing he hath received from this society, unless he can prove that the same was not lawfully received, he shall be fined as the president, trustees, and assistants shall think proper; and if any controversies shall arise concerning this society, they shall be determined by the majority of votes then present; and if the votes are equal, the president shall have the casting vote.

XVII. Any member giving notice to the president of sickness or lameness, shall do it by a written note, mentioning the place of his abode, at, or before four

o'clock in the afternoon, at the same time the president shall deliver to him a ticket, which must be produced every time he sends for his pay, and given up when he gives up his pay, and if found working, or behaving himself unbecoming his situation, with such ticket in his possession, he shall be fined or excluded, as the society shall think proper, or if he begin to work, or behave himself unbecoming his situation, on the day his pay becomes due, shall forfeit five shillings to the stock.

XVIII. If any member of this society shall be convicted of felony, or theft, by a verdict of his countrymen, he shall be excluded immediately; and if any member be cast into prison for debt, or removed into the hospital, he shall neither pay contribution, nor receive pay from the box the whole time of his confinement; and it shall be allowed for a sick member that hath a family to get assistance from the parish.—
N. B If he dies in prison, or in the hospital, he shall receive his funeral money according to the articles.

XIX. The beadle shall be allowed for visiting the sick under the pay of this society, twice the first week, four guineas a year, and also one penny from each member on the general meeting in July, and also for extraordinary visiting, such as Barlow's Island, Highfield, &c. sixpence each time; to Attercliffe, &c. eight pence; and for all such visits of three miles distance, one shilling; and for calling a general bye meeting.

XX. The assistants two at a time, shall visit the sick, twice in every week, Sundays excepted, for one month, or they shall forfeit for every such neglect sixpence to the stock; they shall likewise attend on the president twice a week for orders, as also to acquaint him of the state of the sick, or for such neglect, shall forfeit two-pence to the stock; and the meeting night following, two more shall be appointed to visit, or forfeit as above, and so on, till the assistants have gone round, so long as there is any under the pay of this society.

XXI. The president of this society shall from time to time receive such sum or sums of money as shall be thought necessary for the payment of the sick, and shall bring in his accounts every meeting night, to shew

how much he hath paid and to whom, which shall be entered into the society's book of accounts, and shall then receive such further sum as shall be thought necessary from time to time to the end of the year.

XXII. If any member hath reason to suspect that any improper use is made of the society's money, he shall request the president that a committee be appointed out of the members not in office, to consist of three or five persons, the committee to be chosen by the majority of the members then present, to examine the books of the society, and to report such examination to the society, the meeting night following, and the president shall attend with the committee so chosen to answer such questions as far as relates to the business before them; and after such examination, such measures shall be adopted as the major part of the society shall think proper, the president refusing to comply with the request of the member or members so applying, shall be fined or excluded as the major part of the society shall think proper.

XXIII. On the general meeting night, held the first Monday in July, each member shall pay of all arrears, or for such neglect shall forfeit one shilling to the stock and the president shall make up his accounts some time betwixt the general night and the feast; the president, trustees and assistants, clerk and beadle, and the three presidents latest in office, shall have all the expences of the accounts making defrayed from the stock; and the president's accounts shall not pass unless just and fair, which any member of the society may have liberty to examine at any future time; he shall likewise deliver up his key, with every thing belonging to the society, to his successor.—N. B. Our feast days are on the third and fourth Mondays in July.

XXIV. That if any member be the cause of fighting, or any other disturbance in the club room on the feast day, or any other meeting whatsoever, he or they so offending, shall each and every one of them pay five shillings to the stock; or if it be not convenient for any member to come on our feast day, he may send his father or any old person an object of charity in his room. And if any member on our feast day intrudes into any

other company than that he dined with, except it be agreeable to that company, he shall forfeit sixpence to the stock, to be paid by the third meeting following, or be excluded. That all quarrels and controversies arising amongst the members of this society at any public meeting shall be decided by the major part of the members then present ; the contending parties to retire into another room, till the matter be decided, and then each party to submit to the determination of the society, or be excluded —N. B. The members under pay at the time of the feast, may receive two shillings instead of a feast if they choose.

XXV. If the president shall have occasion to summons the trustees and assistants together, upon any business of the society, he shall give them two days notice by the beadle, and if any of them shall refuse or neglect to come at the time appointed, which shall be at the usual place of meeting, he or they for every such neglect, shall forfeit sixpence to the stock ; but if the president wants money, the first of the assistants that can be found, shall come immediately, or forfeit fourpence ; and if the president shall have occasion to summons the society together, upon notice being given as above, they shall be obliged to attend at the house appointed, or forfeit fourpence to the stock ; and for not paying the same in three months, shall be excluded.

XXVI. The clerk and beadle of this society shall always be ready to attend the business thereof on meeting nights at seven o'clock, and at other times when their attendance is required, or for such neglect, shall forfeit six-pence to the stock ; also, the clerk shall receive for wages, three shillings per month, or any other sum as shall be agreed upon by the society.

XXVII. That no member shall be allowed to sit in the president's room on the meeting night with the president, trustees and assistants, only the two presidents latest in office, or any member who may have business to transact with the society : any member violating this article, shall forfeit one shilling to the stock.

XXVIII. If any member of this society, enlist into his majesty's service, he shall be excluded immediately

after he is attested: also any member that shall inlist into the militia, as a substitute, shall be excluded; but if any member be properly ballotted to serve in the militia, he shall neither pay to nor receive any benefit from the society's stock during the time of his being in actual service.

XXIX. Any member of this society, who may enrol himself as a volunteer, shall not receive pay for any injury he may receive whilst on actual service, provided also if they be called out to be embodied, shall be liable to pay contribution the same as the other members, but shall not be entitled to pay whilst on actual service.

—N. B. But if he dies whilst on actual service, shall be entitled to his funeral money agreeable to the meaning of the seventh article.

XXX. If any member shall remove from his place of abode, he shall give notice to the beadle in three meeting nights after such removal, or forfeit threepence to the beadle, to be paid in three meeting nights after, or be excluded.

XXXI. That a committee shall be elected out of the whole society, to consist of twelve members, and the persons so elected, shall continue upon the committee for the space of six years, and any member refusing to serve to the full end and term of six years, after being duly elected, shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence to the stock; four members shall go out from the committee every two years, and shall be replaced by four others; the committee at any time to be under the control of the society.—N. B. Old presidents, and old delegates, are exempted from serving as delegates, unless with their own consent.

XXXII. The committee of this society shall send one representative to make part of the committee of delegates of the Corn Mill; any member elected to the office refusing to serve for one year, shall forfeit two shillings and sixpence to the society's stock: the said delegate to bring a statement twice a year, which shall be made public the general meeting night following or for such neglect shall forfeit sixpence to the society's stock, and if the committee of this society shall see cause

to recal their delegate and he refuse to comply, he shall be fined as the society shall direct, and if he be a key holder, and refuse to deliver up his key, he shall be fined or excluded, as the society shall think proper.

XXXIII. If any member thinks himself aggrieved by any thing done, or omitted to be done, by the society, or by any officer acting under the society, the matter in dispute shall be referred to the arbitration of not more than eleven, and not fewer than five persons, of whom the president shall always make one; one half of the remainder to be appointed by the member who thinks himself aggrieved, and the other half by the society, and when met, the matter or grievance shall be fully stated to them, and their award shall be decisive and binding to all intents and purposes.—N. B. Should the president be charged with acting contrary to these our rules, he shall not be entitled to the president's chair, at any meeting belonging this society, during the time he is charged as above.

XXXIV. And if any member propose breaking this society, contrary to our rules, he shall be for ever excluded; and while their remains seven sound members in this society, it shall never be broken.

WEST RIDING } I hereby certify, that the rules and orders of the
of } society, calling themselves "The MASON'S SOCIE-
YORKSHIRE. } TY," are agreeable to the act passed in the thirty-
third year of his present Majesty, entitled, "An Act for the encourage-
ment and relief of Friendly Societies."

Given under my hand, this 2nd of January, 1807.

H. Parker.

Doncaster Sessions. }
21st Jan. 1807. }

Allowed by the Court,

Wybergh.

Clerk of the Peace.

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